The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

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LIBRARY RECEIVED JUL 7 Department of Agriculture

The accompanying cut is a picture of the Jesup Agricultural Wagon that marked the beginning of the "Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work," in Alabama. It had its beginning in Macon County, Alabama, on November 12th, 1906, with headquarters at the Tuskegee Institute, under the wise supervision and untiring efforts of Mr. T. M. Campbell, District Agricultural Agent of Alabama. Thirteen counties of the State now have County Agents and the old one-crop system has been struck a death blow and Negro farmers throughout the State are jubilant over the idea of helping to feed the nation. As in Alabama, so in other States, this Agricultural Demonstration Work is having a most telling effect in developing the economic welfare of the Negro farmers throughout the country Below is a very strong and interesting account of the work of Mr. J. B. Pierce, District Agent of Virginia, which sets forth in a very concise manner what is being done to develop the agricultural life of the Negro farmers of Virginia.

Mixing Brains with Farming

John B. Pierce, a graduate of Tuskegee and Hampton, is the district Negro agent for Virginia and is in charge of the eighteen local farm demonstration agents who are working four days each week for the U. S. Department of Agriculture and two days each week on their home farms to show hundreds upon hundreds of men, women, and children that country life brings rich returns to those who use with intelligence the resources at their doors.

Recently I had a long talk with John Pierce. I asked him many pointed questions concerning his early work in Nottoway County, Virginia. Here are some of the things he told me:

"The progress made by 826 Negro farmers in Nottoway County, Virginia, during the seven years I worked among them (1908 to 1915) proves that it pays to mix brains with farming. Land values and crop yields increased at a rapid rate after the Negro farm demonstration agents began working among Negro farmers.

"Land that sold for six to ten dollars an acre, when I went to Nottoway in 1908 to carry the gospel of better farming to my people, is now selling for fifteen, eighteen, and twenty dollars an acre. Undoubtedly this relatively big increase in the value of farm land is due to the fact that white and colored people alike realize that even poor land, when it is properly handled, will produce worth-while crops.

"Land that produced, before the coming of the farm demonstration agents, ten, twelve, and fifteen bushels of corn to the acre, now yields twenty-five, thirty, fifty, and even as high as seventy-six bushels of corn to the acre."

What was done on the farm producing seventy-six bushels of corn to the acre was simply the application to farming problems of more thought, more attention to details, and more skill in the selection of seed, preparation of a good seed bed, and correct methods of soil tillage. He continued:

"The work of the Negro farm demonstration agents has been chiefly that of showing men how to produce more and better foodstuffs for their families and their livestock, rather than that of showing men how to grow more tobacco, which, as the chief money crop, was already receiving a great deal of attention.

"It is safe to say that in Virginia the Negro farm demonstration agents have helped the farmers increase their crop yields 50, 100, and even 300 per cent."

"To what is this wonderful increase in crop yields due?" I asked. "Soil improvement," came the ready response. Then I asked, "Won't you please explain?" The explanation was quickly forthcoming:

"We have interested the farmers in cover crops, such as crimson, sapling, and red clover, vetch, oats, wheat, rye, cowpeas, and soja beans."

Soil improvement, in short, has been made an important part of the gospel of SAFE FARMING, to use a term made well known by Dr. Bradford Knapp, who is in charge of the States Relations Service, South.

"Formerly very few Negro farmers in Nottoway County (or in other Virginia counties) bothered with cover crops. They sowed some wheat and grass on the tobacco lands, but the corn lands, which occupied about four-fifths of all the cultivated land, they left open to the weather and the inroads of the bushes, after the corn crop had been harvested. Now a good share of the corn land is properly protected. From one-third to one-half of the land which a few years ago was left to be badly washed is now saved and built up by cover crops."

"What effect," I asked, "has this improved method of farming had on Negro home life?" The answer again was simple and to the point:

"About 50 per cent of the Negro farmers of Nottoway County, for example, have good gardens for nine or ten months each year. These farmers grow a variety of fruits and vegetables. They used to be satisfied with a small garden which furnished vegetables during the warm season."

Negro homes are now also surrounded with better hogs and poultry. Men, women, and children now enjoy a wider range of food. "Farmers have been helped," he continued, "by the agents in securing pure-bred boars to improve their stock. They have been encouraged to grow rape, rye, corn, clover, and wheat for their hogs to feed upon in the open field. Pure-bred roosters have also been introduced to help build up community poultry flocks. Women have taken an active part in caring for the poultry and the poultry products." Here again the man on the land has been improved in one of the essentials of life—a better food supply.

A PROSPEROUS COLORED FARMER OF CRENSHAW COUNTY ALABAMA

Talk is very cheap. In fact, so cheap that the world has very little respect for the man who can do nothing but talk. After all, an empty wagon keeps the most noise. Mr. Jim Richburg of Crenshaw County, Alabama, prefers to let his deeds do his talking. This is how he does it. Last year he sold 100 dozen eggs at 25 cts. per dozen; 10 bushels of okra, 10 bushels of beans, 150 chickens at 30 cts. each, 300 bushels of peanuts, 500 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of rice, 20 bushels of apples, 6 cows, 18 head of hogs, 5 head of goats, and 4 bales of cotton.

He left on his yard 300 head of chickens and plenty of other produce to advance himself and family. Mr. Richburg owns 475 acres of land, all paid for and no mortgage against it.

He doesn't simply do this one year, but every year. Every man can do as well if he decides to talk less and work more.

A LETTER FROM CHINA, ALABAMA

By N. E. Henry, Principal, China Agricultural School, China, Alabama

Dear Editor of The Negro Farmer and Messenger:

Please allow me space in your paper to give a short account of the 15th anniversary of our Commencement.

The sermon was preached Sunday, April 22nd, by Prof. G. W. Carver, Director Department of Research and Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Subject, "Power of Little Things." The thought was taken from Isaiah XXVIII, 10th verse, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little."

Prof. Carver does not pose as a preacher, but this lay sermon was so delivered that one might well say that no divine could have handled it in a more effective and forcible way. As a prelude to this sermon, the speaker gained rapt attention of the vast audience by saying that just now many of us act a good deal like a cow in the early spring looking for green pasture. Imagining that she sees another greener spot continues to move on and on until she is too far away to ever get back to where she started. After the sermon one could hear expressions from white and colored that it was the most practical sermon they had heard.

Monday the regular routine work was carried on. Tuesday was farmers' day. At 2 o'clock p. m. a number of farmers with their wives, sons, and daughters anxiously made their way into the new Rosenwald school building where they found Prof. Carver presiding a table filled with many different species of plants which may be used for food. For a few minutes the farmers gave their experiences as to how these Institute meetings had helped them. Many of the farmers said, "I owed a large debt and by attending these meetings have paid the debt." One of the important features of this meeting was the exhibit of native foodstuffs, showing how lavishly nature has provided for us if we will learn first what they are and secondly how to prepare them. A very nourishing and palatable dish of wild greens was served and a delicious pie made from the wild oxalis (sour grass). Not a taste left. It was a complete and wonderful demonstration of the fact that not a single person in Conecuh County should go hungry. In this meeting, Mr. J. E. Witherington (white) delivered an interesting, timely and valuable address urging the people to let down their buckets where they are.

Thursday, April 26th, brought us up to our regular Commencement Day. The forenoon was given to class-room work, etc. At 2 o'clock p. m., quite a number of white and colored had assembled in the chapel to hear the Commencement Address, delivered by Prof. G. W. Carver. He clearly demonstrated with the velvet bean many possibilities of the Southland, and urged the farmers in no uncertain tones to get down to business and seize the opportunities which are now being presented. There were more white people present than ever before. After the regular address, which lasted two hours, the people continued to linger around asking Prof. Carver questions on the various products which he had from the velvet bean, and the different plants. Thus ended the 15th anniversary and one of the most successful terms in the history of the school.

Yours for education,
N. E. HENRY.

AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM AUBURN, ALABAMA

May 24, 1917.

To the "Negro Farmer and Messenger."

Gentlemen: I really don't think that I can do without the Negro Farmer and Messenger. I highly appreciate the paper. At this time I would like to say something concerning our school club. During the first three months of this year the students of Oak Grove School raised $13. Eleven dollars of this amount was turned over to the school for repairing the schoolhouse. I shall tell you something of what the members of the club are doing.

I help my mother to raise chickens. We have taken off one hundred and fifty chickens and have now four hens setting. I have in my garden plenty of cabbages, onions, English peas, collards, beets, beans. My mother has in her garden squash, cucumbers, one-half acre of tomatoes, snap beans, and one-half acre of cabbages. My father has in his vegetable farm 7 acres of early corn, six acres of sweet potatoes—Porto Rico and yellow yams—2½ acres of millet and rape, 3 acres of peanuts, two acres of watermelons. He has a pasture with 17 head of hogs in it. The pasture is made of hog proof wire and contains 25 acres. My father has planted in his farm 10 acres of velvet beans in corn and expects to plant more, 15 acres of Florida Flent, 7 acres of Hastings Prolific, 7 acres of Georgia cane, 2 acres of Florida millet, 2½ acres of sugar cane, 21 acres of cotton. We killed 9 hogs last winter, weighing from 150 to 285 pounds each. We have a plenty of meat, lard and corn.

Yours truly,
B. M. FELTON,
President, Oak Grove School Club.

NEGRO CONFERENCE NOTES

H. B. Askew of Elba, Coffee County, Alabama, who is a member of the local Conference in the Yelberton community, has in his smoke-house 175 pounds of meat, a can of lard, and 32 gallons of syrup.

He has sold this year, syrup to the amount of $7.50.

Potatoes, $7.00.
Meat, $50.00.
Velvet Beans, $7.00.
40 bushels Ground Peas, $36.00.
Total, $107.50.

In this way he supplies the necessities of life by raising his food stuffs at home.

Mr. A. J. Askew of Elba, Coffee County, Alabama, another member of the Yelberton Conference, sold this year, as follows:

Hogs, $116.
Cotton, $1,600.
Corn, $110.
Ground Peas, $28.
Potatoes, $20.
Hay, $15.
Velvet Beans, $30.
Syrup, $15.
Meat, $18.
Total, $1,952.

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Lee County, Alabama—A Hustling Farmer

Mr. John Lee Griffin of Mt. Calvary's community, is a hustling farmer. He has now in his smoke-house over one thousand pounds of meat that he killed during the winter. He has 28 gallons of lard, 4 barrels of home-made syrup and 50 gallons in cans; 60 quarts of fruit, a three-acre hog pen, in which he has 19 hogs. He milks 6 cows.

Mrs. Lee and daughter have raised 158 chickens and have 30, frying size They sell from eight to twelve dozen eggs per week. They have a two-acre garden in which every row is planted This garden has supplied them already with salad and will soon produce Irish potatoes and peas.

There are other farmers in this community who are "living at home." There are also other farmers throughout the county who are progressive Each club member has two gardens and plans are being put forth to do a deal of canning this summer. The people are planting more foodstuffs this year than ever.

Coffee County

G. W. Yelverton of Elba, Route 3 Alabama, who is President of the local Conference in his community, has sold this year $149 worth of hogs, $89 worth of corn, $9 worth of velvet beans. His wife, Mrs. Julis Yelberton, sold $15 worth of poultry.

The Conference members are working a school farm—eight acres in cotton and eight acres in corn and velvet beans. They are doing nicely.

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Meeting the Farmer Half Way

By F. H. Cardozo, Director Agricultural Department
Florida State College

STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

It is not too late to talk this doctrine, I am glad to say, but it must be hammered in harder than ever before. I was called to Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida, the other day, to tell some farmers that if they didn't quit so much outspoken talk about "joining the Germans," which is now a prison offense, and go home and plant more sweet potatoes, they ought to starve this coming winter for their disloyalty. That wasn't all I said, but when the talk was over, the "brethren" shook my paw 'til it was sore, and promised me, "by all the gods," to start immediately to putting a row of late corn in every other cotton middle, and every other foot of cleared land in sweet potatoes and cowpeas, and whatever else will succeed at this time of the year, in your particular locality. (I don't say NOT to plant any Cotton at all, but not to TRUST cotton a single bit, especially in this year of hard times.)

I admit some of my colored brothers in this particular county haven't been getting a square deal in some things there, but this is one time in the history of their lives that they are going to find it wise to forgive and forget and temporarily JOIN THE COLORS as enthusiastically as if the war was all on their account. We can join the colors on the farm, just as much as in the United States Army.

It takes a lot of "chin music" to convince our Negro farmers that starvation is coming our way, if we do not plant heavy this summer, to make up for what cannot be gotten from the North and West. It makes no difference how much actual money we may have to BUY ALL we are going to want and need. The EMBARRASSMENT IS, that there is not now enough FOOD PRODUCED to buy, to last over winter. So what are you going to do about it? Simply bend over and harvest it out of the ground, like good STRONG MEN, and thus SHOW our Patriotism, because THAT IS Patriotism.

EAT LESS THIS SUMMER

I had a young rabbit and a blackberry pie for dinner today. Isn't that cheap living? Of course, corn bread, the good old stand-by, was there, also a spoon of rice, etc. When it comes to things to eat, the best is the cheapest in the long run, but that need not mean the most expensive. The young rabbit persisted in eating my string beans in the garden. The blackberry bushes insisted in growing along my fence line, and I simply utilized both for all they were worth. And as for cornbread with an egg in it, just think of some throats which thought they couldn't wallow anything smoother than wheat bread, that may now grow accustomed to corn bread. Oh, 'tis a rough life, ye "airish ruralites" living in town!

But we meant to talk on Economy under this topic, and allowed the very thought of good things to eat, turn us aside. That helps to show us how you and I have got to HELP FIGHT THIS WAR.

Anybody who would stick an Irish potato onto the spout of a kerosene can these days ought to be investigated for lunacy. And that isn't all. There are lots of things just like that which all of us have got to stop, if we intend to reduce the grocer's bill or other bills which come to us. We have got to use less flour and use more meal. We must raise more pork and syrup, and don't buy sugar —now nearing 15 cents a pound. The pork is easy to raise, if you call on the County Agent, white or colored, and have the pigs and hogs inoculated for Hog Cholera, before it is too late. We don't like folks to call us out of our names, but be called a greenhorn is the limit. A greenhorn does not seem so green if he has a greenhorn of plenty—that is, plenty of the long green. So here's where the man with the hoe is some sort of somebody after all.

THE FALL GARDEN—TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING

War makes gardeners of us all. But if we are going to have a fine crop of turnips, rutabagas, winter cabbage, onions, carrots, kale, lettuce and such things for the fall and winter, we MUST RAISE THEM RIGHT,—prepare now to plan the exact spot for each "patch," and look around for home-made fertilizer that the land will need. We MAY have a fall drouth, you know, and the more leaves, straw, or other manure mixture you can put in and under the ground, the better the CROP CAN STAND UP, STRAIGHT AND GREEN, until the RAIN DOES COME AND DO ITS DUTY.

You know best when to start this fall garden in your own community, but by all means have all seed in the ground before or by September first. Too early is better than too late, and in this year of fighting and loss, we must do things we never did before.

AN INTERESTING RURAL SCHOOL REPORT

By Miss Ella B. McNeal,
Industrial Supervisor, Tallapoosa County, Alabama

Dear Editor:

Just on the eve of the close of our school term, I would like to mention the work of a few of our schools, which, to consider conditions, I think has been fairly good.

The school at Camp Hill is at its best this term. During my last visit there, the boys did some creditable work in manual training. The larger girls made, and served hot chocolate to members of the Mothers' Club and also to the children. Prof. Smith treated the little folks to half dozen boxes of wafers. The club ladies ordered seven window lights replaced, costing eighteen cents each. Mr. Herron made an interesting talk, at the close of a pleasant afternoon.

The children of Pleasant Grove school have had under their care a pig, poultry and a garden, all this term. The pig was given warm dinner from scraps, and the washing of greasy dinner buckets. On Fridays the boys living near looked after him till Monday. Wesley Sands has collected enough corn to keep him up until July. The girls had three hens with young chickens in February Four girls completed the 7th grade this term. The patrons paid the teacher $15.00 per month, supplement, making the salary $40.00 per month. This community had the best canning club in the county last summer.

New Adka, has been at her best this term also. The school club bought some material for outdoor games, and has $11 in the treasury. The place is always neat and clean.

I found the New Harmony school in splendid mood for work. So much interest manifested. Everything as neat as could be. We did some good work in sewing and shucks.

At Mt. Calvary, the women are doing well with their club work.

Vines school club is young yet, but they reported $6 dollars in treasury; 4 dozen eggs sent to market March 3rd, and the school patch plowed.

The club women of Little Zion can show some pretty hand work, and canned fruit.

With, perhaps three exceptions, each teacher in the county has made a strong pull this term for cleanliness and order, in the school and surroundings, which influence has been carried home by the children, and returned to the school by parents, sending boys and girls wearing cleaner jackets and aprons.

We mean to try the community fairs next term.

WEEKLY LETTER TO FARMERS

By James A. Wade,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Industry, Washington, D. C.

Prepare for Dry Weather

The old saying that "One extreme follows another" is often true. After the excessive winter and spring rains we may expect a long siege of dry weather to come upon us at any time. There are many advantageous things farmers can do to prevent serious damage from the effect of long dry spells. Extensive use of weeders, harrows and spring-tooth cultivators will cover the whole crop in a few days and will prevent crust from forming, conserve moisture and prevent weeds and grass from germinating. Shallow cultivation is best always and the harrow will do it faster and more frequent. It will assure better stands and stimulate growth of young plants. Use the harrow and cultivate freely and bring the plow into use only when plant are large enough to be damaged by the harrow.

The Wrong Way

Within the past week, I have seen many people barring off cotton two furrows to the row and then sweeping it up with two more furrows to the row. By this system a man can do one to two acres per day. This man is only twenty-five per cent efficient. He could do just four times as much with a spring-tooth cultivator going astride once to the row and the crop and soil would be left in better condition for future cultivation. I never did and never will allow a man to bar off cotton or corn for me. If a man's mind and labor is only one-fourth proficient, he must work for the other fellow. At least seventy-five per cent of his crop will suffer from crust, loss of moisture and become infested with weeds and grass while he is piddling along putting four furrows to the row on the other fourth.

The Best Way

I saw another farm of about six hundred acres of red land that is very quick to crust. This farm belonged to a man who had gotten rich farming. Every acre of this farm had been scratched across the rows with weeders and harrows. He had a splendid stand and all possibility of a crust had been stopped. This man had been using his brains and farming right. That is why he is wealthy. Young cotton and corn should be harrowed across the rows soon after every rain and the spring-tooth cultivator run astride the row three to five days later. Such methods will accomplish the maximum amount of work and is best for both soil and crop. When the plants are large enough for cross harrowing to damage, it should be left off. The spring-tooth cultivator should be run in the middles when the plants are too large to go astride. By this time the plants will be shading the soil considerably and the general use of shallow plowing will be necessary.

Increase your capacity and efficiency by covering more land with better tools and better management. Increase your mental and physical capacity. It may be your handicap. That is why some men can manage a railroad better than others can drive an ox-cart.

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VERNON W. BARNETT
Editor and Business Manager

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EDITORIAL

Use What You Have

There is much truth in the old assertion, "A bird in the hand is worth a thousand in the bush." The law of human progress is based upon the all important principle of going from the known to the unknown—from the simple to the complex. He who fails to appreciate the crumbs, the pennies, the little opportunities about his very door, will hardly be so fortunate as to acquire greater wealth or prominence. But for the little grains of sand or tiny drops of water, there would be no earth or sea. Thousands of our people are today tramping golden opportunities under their feet, in search of that which seems greater and more commanding, forgetting that real success and substantial progress can come only to him who learns to use and appreciate the little things already in hand.

NO TIME FOR IDLE DREAMING

Never before in the history of the country has it been more important for every farmer to cease all air-castle building and get right down to real business than now. We shall never be able to fully supply the food demands of the nations unless every farm is made to yield its highest possible production of foodstuffs. We are going to be able to do this only as we stick to our job and make every blow count. The speculators are taking advantage of the fearful shortage of food by charging prices entirely too high for a poor man to pay. Where is the wisdom or excuse for a farmer paying $2.00 per bushel for meal, and 25 cents per pound for meat and lard? I think that this sermon has been preached long enough for every farmer to have taken the hint. Now, there is only one way by which we can control these high prices—that is let the farmer see to it that his meat and meal barrel be filled with meat and meal of his own raising. As long as the merchant has all of the groceries in his storehouse, he will charge whatever pleases him, however much the hungry man complains. In fact it seems that our appetites are sharper when food and money are scarce and prices high.

EXERCISE MORE ECONOMY.

Now is the time for husband and wife to throw their heads together in the matter of guarding against waste of any kind. Let the wife exercise greater care in planning her meals. I think it would be a good idea for the meals to be planned at least a day or two ahead. You should know today what you are going to have on your table tomorrow. Put brains into the selection of the foods and use those of least expense as long as you are getting the desired nutritive value. I think much might be saved by adhering more strictly to the use of soups in the diet. Besides being a splendid "filler," they offer the means of using many of the food elements that would otherwise be wasted, as soup bones, meat scraps, etc.

Are you still wasting one slice of bread a day in your home? Are you still allowing the house fly to crawl across your food thus rendering it unfit for human consumption? Are you guarding against rats and mice, roaches and ants as carefully as you should? Are you taking proper care of perishable foods by keeping them in a cool place, thus keeping out bacteria? If you are not you are increasing rather than cutting down the $700,000,000 food waste that is going on annually in the United States. Secretary of Agriculture Houston states that "While all honor is due to the women who leave their homes to nurse and care for those wounded in battle, no woman should feel that because she does not wear a nurse's uniform, she is absolved from patriotic service. The home women of the country, if they will give their minds fully to this vital subject of food conservation and train themselves in household thrift, can make of the housewife's apron, a uniform of national significance.

Demonstrate thrift in your homes and encourage thrift among your neighborbors. Make saving rather than spending, your social standard. Make economy fashionable, lest it become obligatory. Every ounce of food wasted, every moment of time lost, and every bit of energy misapplied, make it doubly hard, not only to feed the hungry millions, but to establish peace and harmony between the warring nations.

INTELLIGENT SERVICE THE WATCHWORD OF THE HOUR.

The time is here when lasting success comes only to him who puts brains into everything he does. The day of the slip-shod farmer has passed. The careless mother, the drunken father, the wicked son must all pay the penalty for their ignorance. The farmers of today might all have been prosperous and happy had they put more thought and energy into their business—had they prepared for the rainy day. Even in the face of the trying ordeals brought on by the terrible war, there are yet those of us who have not learned the lesson of thrift. There are still farmers who are neglecting their hogs, cattle, poultry and gardens. There are still those who are throwing away precious time that might be used in cultivating their corn and potatoes. Let me again appeal to you to keep the garden green all the year. You can do it. Nurse the pigs closely and don't let them become stunted. You will need the meat and lard next winter. Some farmers are thoughtful enough to plant pumpkins in the corn between every sixth or eighth hill. This makes a very cheap but valuable hog feed. It is not only valuable for hogs but is a fine appetizer for cattle. We learn through the U. S. government that "273 pounds of grain and 376 pounds of pumpkins produced 100 pounds of pork. The pumpkins saved from 100 to 150 pounds of grain." Don't let June pass without planting some through your corn farm.

CANNING TIME IS HERE.

No thoughtful person is going to neglect this all important duty. Prof. Geo. W. Carver has just issued two very important bulletins on Drying and Canning that will be worth thousands of dollars to the South if we follow the directions given. Don't fail to send for these bulletins. Remember that canning time is now upon us and we must work fast if we would save the fruit. I was much surprised on going out a few days, and finding so many wild plums and berries wasting. Large orchards within a stone's throw of farmers' homes, going to waste, and the inmates of these homes stretched out on large pallets "taking it easy." After a while they'll wake up hungry with nothing to eat and fruit all gone. Bestir yourselves, and use what you have. The spot on yonders hill is no greener than where you are. Gather the fruit within your own grasp and be happy. It is seldom that a man is blessed with more than he appreciates. Hence the best way to increase your belongings is to use well the little intrusted to your care. Be economical in everything but whole-hearted service. Let your thought your life, your contact, improve everything and everybody about you and you will not have lived in vain.

A Far-Reaching Demonstration On the Tuskegee Institute Experiment Station

To those who doubt the possibility of building up Macon county soil to a high state of fertility and thereby getting the maximum yield of farm products—corn, cotton, wheat, rye, potatoes, or anything planted—I would invite your attention to the Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, under the direction of Prof. George W. Carver. It has been my pleasure and privilege to study with great care, Prof. Carver's method of handling soils and crops, and am thoroughly convinced that no soil is too poor or barren to be greatly improved under the proper methods. No land, I dare say, in the state of Alabama, possessed less fertility a few years ago, than that now used for the Experiment Station; but the present crops now to be seen on this land, disclose the startling but beautiful truth that few bottom lands and no hillside lands possess a higher state of fertility than this once barren spot. And may I not forget to remind you that this improvement has been brought about, not through the use of commercial fertilizers but through a regular and systematic application of compost collected in the immediate neighborhood. Prof. Carver makes it perfectly clear that he has not done the impossible—that any man of ordinary ability and the proper push can use the same methods that he has applied and get like results.

METHODS OF HANDLING THE SOIL.

Again I have noticed that not a clod or hard place is to be found on this land. The soil is like an "ash bank," and every available foot of earth is used. To you who stop your cultivation a mile from the ends and sides of your field, and cultivate only the center of your farms, I would insist that you try to see this model plot and learn what you are actually losing through your careless methods. So well has

this land been prepared and cultivated, that during the long dry period that we have recently had, there was sufficient moisture stored away in the soil to keep the crop growing.

Now what are you doing with your soil? Are you building it up day by day, with the food elements about your very door, or are you allowing it to become poorer each day? Are you trying to improve conditions about you, or are you whining and waiting for some one else to come and do the job for you? Arouse ye, and use what you have! Remember that "To him that hath shall be given."

NOT WORDS BUT DEEDS COUNT

One of the teachers in attendance at the summer school at Tuskegee Institute, asked me a few days ago, if I felt that there is sufficient promise in the Macon county land to justify her purchasing a home here. I answered her question like this: "Your question will be fully and satisfactorily answered if you will take the time to go over to the Experiment Station and see what Prof. Carver is doing with land that, at one time, was considered worthless. He has done little talking about what can be done but has shown it in a more practical way. The cotton on this splot has matured bolls, and blossoms are to be seen throughout the field. As yet, the weevils have done very little harm. The punctured squares are gathered every two days and burned. Prof. Carver is not waiting to let the weevils destroy his crop because of the old empty statement, "That's God's business and we had better let those weevil's alone." But he is working on the principle that "God helps those who help themselves." As a result, his cotton is fruited from the ground up. "Carver's Improved" is the kind of seed used and from every point of view, measures right up to the demands of the hour. Come and see this remarkable demonstration. Editor.

How Mrs. Maggie Pollard Saves Summer Squash

By G. W. Carver, M. S. Agr.

I was greatly interested in a jar of summer squash brought me by Mrs. Maggie Pollard, of Notasulga, Alabama.

The squash when properly freshened with cold water, had an excellent flavor and could be cooked the same as fresh squash.

METHOD.

Take young, tender summer squash. Cut into chunks about the size of hen eggs. Pack tightly in wooden or stone vessels.

Make a brine with common salt, sufficient to float a fresh hen egg, and raise it half way out of the brine; cover the squash with this brine, weight down and keep covered with the brine.

When wanted for use, take out and soak the required quantity in plenty of cold water until all of the salt is out. Cook in the usual manner.

We hope many housewives and canning clubs will try Mrs. Pollard's method.

Reports From Members of the Home Economic Club at Coatopa, Alabama

Too much cannot be said of the valuable work being done by Miss N. J. Coleman, Organizer of Home Economic Clubs, among the women and girls of the State of Alabama. Below are a few interesting reports from some of her members who are accomplishing wonderful results in helping Alabama feed herself. No movement is doing a more far-reaching service toward helping the Negro women of the State realize the importance of their work as home builders.

Editor.

Cotaopa, Ala., June 14, 1917.

Miss N. J. Coleman,

Organizer Home Economic Clubs,

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Please accept my report of what I have done since the agent's last visit. Owing to the dry weather my garden is firing very badly.

I have two rows of tomatoes	144 ft. long
5 rows of sweet corn	360 ft. long
3 rows of cabbage	216 ft. long
5 rows of onions	360 ft. long
3 rows of collards	216 ft. long

Also some spinach, beets, lettuce, and onion seeds. I also have two rows of snap beans 144 feet long. My Irish potatoes are now ready to be dug.

Since the last general meeting, I set 88 eggs and hatched 71; since June the 3rd, I have set 43 eggs. I paid 40 cents for chicken feed. I used 2 dozen eggs—50 cents. I have 115 chickens to market. I have 21 quarts of berries, 1 quart of berry jam, and 1 quart of apricot preserves.

I mean to can everything I can get my hands on this season.

Respectfully,

Mattie Scales.

Cotaopa, Ala., June 14, 1917.

Miss N. J. Coleman,

Organizer Home Economic Club,

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

My dear Miss Coleman:

Kindly accept the following as my report to date. In March I set 3 hens on 48 eggs and hatched 38. In April I set nine hens on 154 eggs and 141 hatched. In May I set 94 eggs, hatched 74 eggs. April, set 9 turkey eggs—hatched 9 turkeys. May, set 16 turkey eggs, hatched 15; lost 1 egg and four turkeys.

June 9th, canned 11 quarts of blackberries.
June 9th, sold one-half bushel of beans.
June 9th, sold four chickens.
Have 150 more chickens to sell.

Yorus truly,

Mrs. Carrie Dykes.

Route 1, Box 71.

Cotaopa, Ala., June 14, 1917.

Miss N. J. Coleman,

Organizer Home Economic Club.

My dear Miss Coleman:

January—Sold four chickens for 30 cents	$ 1.20
January—Sold 10 pounds of butter	2.50
March—Sold 12 dozen eggs	3.00
March—Sold 8 gallons of milk	.80
April—Sold 7½ dozen eggs	1.60
April—4½ pounds butter	1.05
April—10 gallons milk	1.00
May—Sold 12 gallons milk	1.20
May—7 dozen eggs	1.44
May—Irish potatoes	.40
June—5 gallons milk	.50
	$14.69
For home use—3 grown chickens	$ 1.50
For home use—6 dozen eggs	1.50
Total sold to date	$17.69

M. Spencer.

R. F. D. No. 1, Box 27, Coatopa, Ala.

Cotaopa, Ala., June 14, 1917.

Miss N. J. Coleman,

Organizer Home Economic Club No. 1.

My dear Miss Coleman:

Please accept my report as follows: Since you were here last we have had very little rain and for that cause my garden is not as flourishing as I would like it.

I have two rows of tomatoes 80 feet long, collards 24 feet, cabbage 160 feet, onions 200 feet, beans 160 feet, lettuce 40 feet, beets 40 feet, okra, 80 feet that is bearing. My beans are also bearing. My cabbage and tomatoes are suffering greatly because of the dry weather.

My collards, beets and lettuce are growing nicely. My Irish potatoes have done well in spite of the dry weather.

Since the last meeting I set 54 eggs and hatched 47, lost 7 eggs. I have 4 hens sitting now on 62 eggs. I used 2½ dozen eggs worth 50 cents; one chicken worth 30 cents. I sold 8 chickens for $2.00. I have 68 chickens to sell in a few days.

I have canned 24 quarts of berries and 3 quarts of apples and 1 quart of jelly. This is just a beginning. I plan to can as long as there is any juice in the fruit and vegetables; then I will assist them in drying. Although we have so many obstacles in the way of growing vegetables, we shall continue to work while it is day for no man can work when it is dark.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Sadie M. Lee.

Alabama County Training Principals and Teachers En Route to Hampton Institute

The Alabama party of fifteen workers, guests of the General Educational Board, left Montgomery at 6:15 Sunday over the Southern, en route for Hampton. They were joined by the Louisiana delegation of nine members and many friends visited the car during the trip across country, among whom was Prof. Holloway, of Talladega College.

Just before reaching Richmond, Va., the following interesting program was rendered:

Melody—"My Lord, What a Morning."
Solo—Prof. Knight.
Monologue—Principal S. T. Wilson.
Melody—"Going to See My Mother."
Talk—Miss E. L. Gulley, Alabama.
Music—Mr. J. H. Dancer, Texas.
Talk—Miss Georgia Washington, Alabama.
Music—Mr. Ligon A. Wilson, Alabama.
Reading—Mr. Baber, Alabama.
Brief Remarks—Miss Sara Woodall, Mrs. R. T. Pollard, Alabama; Miss M. Nance, Louisiana.
Melody.

The program closed with a song dedicated to Hampton by Mr. Dancer. Dean J. S. Jones, of Louisiana, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The other members of the party were: Principals J. J. Whitley, J. H. Lee, Johnson, Knight, S. T. Wilson; Messrs. Baber, Whiting, Jones; Mesdames McKinsey, Jones; Misses Henderson, Butler.

From Louisiana—Principal A. B. Rowe, and Mr. L. A. Webb; Mesdames A. B. Rowe, Lucille Griffin; Misses F. E. Wright, Roberta F. Bell, Lydia G. Placide, Almira A. Boley.

The Drier of Merit, Price $1.00
Postage extra.
Magic Pomade, price.....50cts.
Magic Heater, price.....50cts.
Agents wanted. Write for literature.
MAGIC SHAMPOO DRIER COMPANY
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Morehouse College

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Atlanta, Georgia

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An Institution famous within recent years for its emphasis on all sides of manly development; the only Institution in the far South devoted solely to the education of Negro young men.

Graduates given high ranking by greatest Northern universities.

Debating, Y. M. C. A., Athletic, all live features. For information address.

JOHN HOPE, President

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Wonderful Hair Dressing and Grower
1,000 Agents Good Money Made

I want agents in every city and village to sell THE STAR HAIR GROWER. This is a wonderful preparation. Can be used as a straightener with or without irons. Sells for 25c. a Box. One 25c. box will prove its value. Any person who will use it will be convinced. No matter what has failed to grow your hair just give THE STAR HAIR GROWER a trial and you will be convinced.

Send 25c for full size box. If you wish to be an agent send $1.00 and I will send you a full supply so that you may begin at once, also agents' terms. Send all money by money order.

The Star Hair Grower Manufacturer
1113 Clark St. Evanston, Ill.

Look

Send for free treatment. Guaranteed for all the worst forms of Blood Disease.

OLD DR. WELCH,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Long Hair That is Soft Smooth and Glossy

Quinade. Invented by a New York Chemist, Stimulates and Nourishes the Roots of the Hair

Just as a good fertilizer nourishes the soil and produces a rich crop of wheat or corn, so will the proper remedy create a healthy condition of the scalp, and promote the growth of the hair. QUINADE stimulates and nourishes the roots of the hair, thereby causing a healthy growth.

QUINADE was invented by a New York chemist, and is made under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist of over 25 years' experience; this is a guarantee that QUINADE is as near pharmaceutically correct as can be. The ingredients are selected with great care, and nothing enters this high class preparation unless it is of the highest purity.

Seeby's QUINASOAP, the ideal shampoo, is an excellent aid to QUINADE in keeping the scalp in a clean, healthy condition. It should be used about every two weeks.

Both articles are sold by druggists and dealers at 25c each, or will be sent direct by Seeby Drug Co., 79 E. 130th St., New York City, on receipt of price. Write for sample of QUINADE, mentioning the name of this paper.

Forty-Three Ways to Save the Wild Plum Crop

By G. W. Carver, M. S. Agr., Director Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

No. 6—PLUM, PEACH AND APPLE PRESERVES

Take one pound of plums, one pound of apples and one pound of peaches. All should be peeled and the apples and peaches cut into discs about the size of the plums. Sugar the fruit the same as for plum preserves but in separate jars. After standing over night, drain the syrup from each one into a preserving kettle and boil gently and skim thoroughly for two minutes, put the peaches in first, boil until tender, remove and add the apples, boiling them until tender, remove and add the plums, boiling them until clear. The apples and peaches should be kept hot; the plums should now be added and the whole mixed together but not mashed. Add spice exactly the same in kind and quality as recommended for preserves.

No. 7—PLUM CONSERVE

Take three pounds of peeled plums, one pound of very ripe peaches that have been peeled and sliced. Select three large oranges, remove the seed and mince the pulp. Grate the rinds and use the pulp and juice. Put all together and stir in three and one-half pounds of granulated sugar and one-half pound of strained honey; boil slowly until thick and seal hot.

No. 8—PLUM JELLY

Take as many medium ripe plums as you wish, cover them with boiling water. Pour off immediately, draining them thoroughly. Put them into a preserving kettle with just boiling water enough to cover them, boil until the plums begin to burst and considerable juice extracted. Pour off liquid and strain, for each pound of juice add one pound of white sugar. Return to the kettle and boil it slowly for twenty or thirty minutes, as it may require. Pour into jelly glasses and set aside to cool. When solid cover closely and store in a cold, dry place.

No. 9—PICKLED PLUMS No. 1

Take either the yellow or red varieties when just ripe but not mushy, wash and dry with a soft cloth, prick them a few times; place in a stone jar, add four and one-half pounds of sugar to one gallon of vinegar (of medium strength). Put into preserving kettle, boil and skim several times. Continue heating the vinegar and pouring over them every other day for three days.

No. 10—PICKLED PLUMS No. 2

Take seven pounds of plums and five pounds of brown sugar, one-fourth pound of stick cinnamon; two ounces of cloves and two ounces of allspice; scald just vinegar enough to cover them and pour over the spiced plums four mornings in succession. Pack in glass or stone vessels. Caution: Do not put in vessels with metal tops.

No. 11—PLUM JUICE

Select only well ripened plums for the finest flavored vinegar. Prepare kettle and crush with a wooden pestle. Heat slowly and boil gently for about twenty-five minutes. Crush again; put two thicknesses of cheese into the colander, pour in and let drain; when sufficiently cold, press out all of the juice possible by twisting the cloth. Clean the preserving kettle and return the juice to the fire. When it boils draw back and skim, repeat this three or four times. To every pint of juice add one-half pint of sugar; boil five or six minutes, skimming carefully. Fill hot sterilized jars or bottles. Set the vessel in boiling water and allow it to simmer for twenty-five minutes; re-fill with boiling juice; remove from fire and seal. Place on boards and set in a dark place out of a draft. This makes a delicious beverage when properly diluted and used the same as grape juice.

No. 12—A CHEAP AND DELICIOUS PLUM PUDDING

Take:
2 quarts corn meal,
1 quart stoned plums cut into small pieces,
1 pound chopped suet,
1 tablespoon butter,
8 eggs beaten up into sufficient milk to make the whole into a stiff batter.

Put into a bag and boil three hours; serve with any kind of sauce you like. This pudding can be saved in a cool place, and warmed over, day after day, and is as nice as when fresh.

No. 13—PLUM SYRUP

Make exactly the same as recommended for plum juice except three-fourths as much sugar as juice must be added. This is excellent for water ices, ice cream, etc. Two or three spoonfuls added to a glass of ice water is very refreshing in hot weather.

No. 14—PLUM VINEGAR

Select only well ripened plums for the finest flavored vinegar. Prepare the same as for jelly except the pulp may be washed twice with warm water so as to extract just as much of the juice as possible. Pour into stone or glass vessels and set into warm place for two days. Skim and decant the clear liquid, and to every three pints of juice add one pint of brown sugar. Pour into jugs; tie a cloth over the top and set in a dark place to work. When sufficiently strong it may be corked and put away for use. A little "mother" from strong vinegar is often added with excellent results.

(To be continued)

FOR SALE POLAND CHINA PIGS

bred gilts and sows, two hornless Shorthorn bull calves. J. S. Officer, Sparta, Tenn.

DROPSY TREATMENT. It gives quick relief. Swelling and short breath soon gone. All distressing symptoms rapidly disappear. Liver and kidneys act better. General improvement is realized. I send by mail a trial treatment absolutely FREE. Try it. Never heard of anything its equal for dropsy.
Write to DR. THOMAS E. GREEN,
Bank Bldg., Box 7 , Chatsworth Ga.

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W. T. McKissick & Co.'s
Famous Six Weeks or 90 Day Treatments
For Scalp, Hair and Skin
Nos. 1 and 2, Six Weeks, 50c. With No. 3, 75c.
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POSTAGE EXTRA, 10 CTS.

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To Learn To Be
Expert Automobile Mechan.cs and Chauffeurs.

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The Largest Automobile Training School for Negroes in the World.

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If you want long and luxurious hair, and a scalp that is clean and free from dandruff, use **Reginall Cocoa Balm.** Put up in 25 & 50¢ boxes.

Reginall Shampoo Jelly cleanses the scalp, and nourishes and invigorates the roots. Price 25¢.

Reginall Skin Food and Whitener is unexcelled for removing impurities from the skin and for whitening it. It leaves the skin soft and beautiful. Price 25¢.

Send for a trial box today. All goods sold on a money back guarantee. Write today. Stamps or coin taken for any amount less than $1.00.

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Reginall Labaratory, Atlanta, Ga.

Exceptionally good business proposition for Aents—ladies or gentlemen—city or country. Particulars free. The Rappe Company, Box 636B, Los Angeles, California

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Exelento Medicine Co.,
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Gentlemen: Before I used your **Exelento Quinine Pomade** my hair was short, coarse and nappy, but now it has grown to 32 inches long, and is so soft and silky that I can do it up any way I want to. I am sending you my picture to show you how pretty Exelento has made it. SALLIE REED.

Don't let some fake Kink Remover fool you. You really can't straighten your hair until it is nice and long. That's what

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does. Removes Dandruff, feeds the Roots of the hair, and makes it grow long, soft and silky. After using a few times you can tell the difference, and after a little while it will be so pretty and long that you can fix it up to suit you. If Exelento don't do as we claim, we will give your money back.

Price 25c by mail on receipt of stamps or coin.

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MADE STRAIGHT

Colored folks are crazy about Herolin, the new discovery which straightens out kinky, snarly or nappy hair. Simply apply a little

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to hair and scalp, and in a short time your hair becomes soft, smooth, silky and so straight that it can be combed and brushed in any style. Herolin grows lots of new hair, soft, fluffy, straight, thick and beautiful—looks and feels so fine and lovely that you feel proud of your hair and are the envy of your friends. Herolin also stops itching scalp and dandruff at once.

SEND 25c (stamps or coin) for a big box.
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We manufacture all the Latest Styles of Creole Hair Goods, Electric Combs Raw Hair, Etc.
We are the largest Hair Dealers, and show a larger variety of styles, and sell more Fine Creole Wigs than any other manufacturers in the United States. Write for New Catalogue. It is FREE.

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Will Promote a Full Growth of Hair, Will also Restore the Strength, Vitality and the Beauty of the Hair. If your Hair is Dry and Wiry Try

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If you are bothered with Falling Hair, Dandruff, Itching, Scalp, or any Hair Trouble, we want you to try a jar of EAST INDIA HAIR GROWER. The remedy contains medical properties that go to the roots of the Hair, stimulate the skin, helping nature do its work. Leaves the hair soft and silky. Perfumed with a balm of a thousand flowers. The best known remedy for Heavy and Beautiful Black Eye-Brows, also restores Gray Hair to its Natural Color. Can be used with Hot Irons for Straightening.

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1 Hair Grower, 1 Temple Oil, 1 Shampoo, 1 Pressing Oil, 1 Face Cream and Direction for Selling, $2.00
25c Extra for Postage

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Oklahoma City, Okla.

NEW SALEM COMMUNITY

Jones, Alabama.

The Negro Farmer and Messenger:

Gentlemen: Please give space in your wonderful paper for a few words from the Salem community. We are still trying to improve our community in both the school and farm. Our school has just closed a five months session under the leadership of Prof. U. C. Orsbon. Our enrollment was something over one hundred. We have two teachers. We had a very excellent Commencement. Five students graduated from the Seventh Grade. The Commencement Address was delivered by Prof. Rodgers, Dean of Selma University. The orations of graduates were very good.

We are planning to paint our schoolhouse and put it in good shape for the next session. We plan to have more industrial work, and a longer school term. We have a good three room schoolhouse, built on State Plan. I wish to say that our county has been fortunate to have Mr. B. T. Washington, Jr., to speak in behalf of better schools, churches, homes and farms. He spent more than a week in our county. On February 23-24 he spoke at our schoolhouse. After a special program rendered by the students, the speaker was introduced by Miss Mary E. Edwards, the assistant teacher. Mr. Washington advised us to keep sorry preachers out of our pulpits and sorry teachers out of our school rooms, and in this way we will find it easier to better our community. He spoke very forcibly upon improving our homes, buying land and making all we need to eat. He said above all, don't fail to educate your children, and in order to do these things, we must co-operate. The preacher, teacher and people must co-operate.

We are sure Mr. Washington's visit to our county will do great good and we hope he will arrange to come again soon.

—Reporter.

DO YOU KNOW—

That every spoonful of left-over gravy can be used in soups and sauces or as flavoring for meat pies, croquettes, and vegetables?

That every bit of clean fat trimmed from meat and every spoonful of drippings and every bit of grease that rises when meat is boiled can be clarified, if need be, and is valuable in cookery? Don't fatten your garbage pail at the expense of your bank account.

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For 1916-1917
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A woman's beauty is decided by her complexion. You should be particular—Very Particular about the face powder you use.

Remember that the white face powders are made for white skins. The velvety soft matchless brown skin demands a superior Brown Skin Powder.

Thousands of beautiful Colored American Women who know and demand the best face powder are using

Brazilite Brown Skin Complexion Powder

A genuine Beautifier-Refreshing-Refining causes the muddy complexion to blossom into one of matchless brown skin beauty.

Tear this Coupon Out Now

With it send 25 cents and receive a 50 cent box of Brazilite Brown Skin Complexion Powder. This offer will be closed after June 1st.

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